the matter of allotment of space in Hangar No.10 and leasing of 35,000 sq. ft. of land to M/S Mesco Airlines for construction of hangar at Juhu Airport during the year 1992. The case is under investigation of CBI.

[English]

Extension of Railway Platform in Giridih Railway Station

276. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend Platforms of Giridih Railway Station under Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the funds allocated therefor; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Work of extension of platform at Giridih was taken up during 1996-97 at a cost of Rs.3.51 lakh and has since been completed.

Earthquake in M.P

277. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether "HUDCO" has proposed to extend loans for residential purposes to the victims of earthquakes that struck the State of Madhya Pradesh around mid-year;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the number of persons applied in those schemes so far; and

(d) the number of persons benefited alongwith the amount of loan provided?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) In consultation with the State Government HUDCO has drawn up a package for providing loan assistance to the extent of Rs.114.00 crores to the nominated State agencies for reconstruction and repairs of 55000 houses which were fully/partially damaged in and around Jabalpur in the earthquake in May, 1997.

(b) So far HUDCO has sanctioned loan assistance of Rs. 45.71 crores for reconstruction of 5727 dwelling units and repair of 12733 dwelling units. As on 15.11.97, it has released Rs.6.43 crores to the implementing state agencies based on proposals submitted by the State Government.

(c) and (d) As reported by HUDCO , as on 12.11.97, a total number of 3331 loan applications have been received by implementing agencies out of which 2451 applications have been sanctioned for loan assistance of Rs.660.00 lakhs, Rs. 302.67 lakhs has been disbursed by the implementing agencies.

Electrification of Railway Routes

278. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a comprehensive plan has been formulated by the Government for electrification of Railway routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the percentage of the total existing network of Railways which is proposed to be electrified by the Government during ,1997;

(d) whether any time bound scheme has been formulated for this electrification ; and

(e) if so, the annual target fixed for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VAILS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Subject to availability of funds, electrification of 2300 Route Kilometre has been planned during IX plan. 0.8% of the total existing network of the Railways is proposed to be electrified during 1997-98.

Annual targets for electrification during IX plan are planned as under :

1997-98	500 KM
1998-99	450 KM
1999-2000	450 KM
2000-2001	450 KM
2001-2002	450 KM

[Translation]

Expansion of DD Network in Himachal Pradesh

279. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :
SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the plan formulated by the Government for expansion of Doordarshan Network in Himachal Pradesh during the last four months;

(b) whether the T.V. Towers installed there are not functioning properly;

(c) if so, the steps being taken for their improvement;

(d) whether LPT relay centre has been sanctioned for Rath town in Hamirpur district; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) 2 Very Low Power TV transmitters (VLPTs), one each at Ashapuri and Nehri, have been sanctioned for further expansion of Doordarshan network in Himachal Pradesh during the last four months.

(b) and (c) All the existing TV transmitters in Himachal Pradesh, except the VLPT at Jahalma, are reported to be functioning satisfactorily. The repair work in respect of the VLPT, Jahalma is presently held up due to road blockage and snowfall.

(d) and (e) A Low Power TV transmitter (LPT) is already under implementation at Rath in Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

Barren Land Development Programme in Maharashtra

280. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projects approved under Barren Land Development Programme in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) the details of projects pending for approval with the Union Government and the reasons for their pendency;

(c) the time by which sanction is likely to be accorded in regard there to ;

(d) the number of projects getting finance from foreign agencies under Barren Land Development Programme in the State ;

(e) the details of the projects under implementation in the state at present; and

(f) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) There is no Barren Land Development Programme in the Department of Wastelands Development , Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment. However, the Department is implementing an Integrated Wastelands Development project scheme in Maharashtra State. Two projects under IWDP scheme have been sanctioned for Nasik and Ahmednagar districts . The IWDP in Nasik district was sanctioned in 1992-93 for a period of 4 years at a total cost of Rs.156.73 lakhs for development of 1700 ha. of wastelands. The IWDP in Ahmednagar district was sanctioned in 1994-95 for a period of 3 years at a total cost of 42.03 lakhs for development of 531 ha. of wastelands. The IWDP in Nasik district has been completed and IWDP in Ahmednagar districts is likely to be completed during 1997-98. No such project has been approved under Integrated Wasteland Development project Scheme during the last three years in the State except in Ahmednagar district.

(b) and (c) No Integrated Wastelands Development Project proposal from the state of Maharashtra is pending in the Department for sanction.

(d) to (f) There is no such project funded by foreign agencies is under implementation in the state .

Privatisation of AI / IA

281. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal of Privatisation of Air India and Indian Airlines is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) to (c) Air India Limited figures in the list of 40 Public sector Enterprises (PSEs) referred by the Government to the Disinvestment Commission for drawing up a comprehensive and long term disinvestment programme for these PSEs.

At present , there is no proposal to disinvest the equity capital in Indian Airlines.

[English]

Provision of Finance to Film Industry

282. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether recent incidents in Mumbai have confirmed a nexus between the film industry and the underworld;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;